THE
HISTORIAN
OF HANCOCK COUNTY

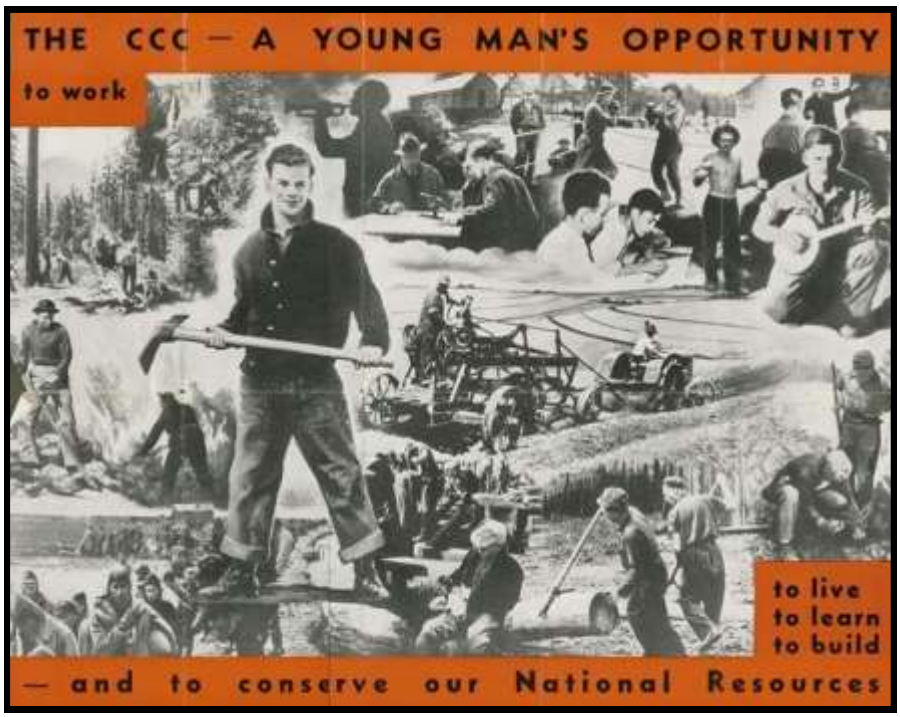
Website: hchsm.org

Bay Saint Louis, Mississippi — July 2025

COMING EVENTS AT LOBRANO HOUSE

The monthly luncheon meeting will be held on Thursday, July 17, 2025, at noon at the Kate Lobrano House (108 Cue Street). The guest speakers will be Jerilyn Faulstich and family who will present a "Christmas in July" which is a presentation of the iconic Mr. Bingle of New Orleans. ***Reservations are required*** and may be made by calling 228-467-4090. **Please call no later than *noon on Wednesday, July 16,*** to make your reservation. Seating is limited to forty-eight (48) people, and we need to order the correct number of lunches. **Served at noon, lunch is $15.00 for members and $17.00 for nonmembers,** payable at the door. The catering order is submitted on Wednesday at noon prior to the luncheon on Thursday. If you need to cancel your reservation, please call by noon on Wednesday prior to the luncheon if at all possible so that the society does not incur unnecessary expenses. It is catered by Almost Home Catering with Chef Michelle Nichols. The menu for the luncheon this month is chicken and sausage jambalaya, vegetable medley, strawberry salad, yeast rolls, and dessert.

HAPPY 4TH OF JULY



The Civilian Conservation Corps

By
Eddie Coleman

The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) was established on March 31, 1933, as part of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's "New Deal" under the name Emergency Conservation Work Act of 1933 (ECW). Its aim was to provide jobs for young single men between eighteen and twenty-eight years old, but special provisions were placed in the act for veterans. The enlistment for each volunteer in this peacetime army ran for six months; however, reenlistment was possible after this initial period. Within three months of its establishment, the CCC volunteers numbered 270,000 working in 1330 camps.

The idea of such a conservation corps was not original with Roosevelt and was not even an idea with U. S. origins. "In 1850 the Scottish essayist Thomas Carlyle wrote that unemployed men should be organized into regiments to drain bogs and work in wilderness areas for the betterment of Society." In the United States in 1910, William James, Harvard philosopher, suggested that young men be drafted to work in environmental programs rather than in the military—the one to substitute for the other. In 1915 George H.

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Eddie Coleman, Editor
Lobrano House Director

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LOBRANO HOUSE HOURS
MONDAY — FRIDAY
10:00AM — 3:00PM
CLOSED 12—1 (lunch)

MISSION STATEMENT

"TO PRESERVE THE GENERAL AND ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY OF HANCOCK COUNTY AND TO PRESERVE THE KATE LOBRANO HOUSE AND COLLECTIONS THEREIN; TO RESEARCH AND INTERPRET LIFE IN HANCOCK COUNTY; AND TO ENCOURAGE AN APPRECIATION OF AND INTEREST IN HISTORICAL PRESERVATION."

Maxwell suggested much the same thing as Thomas Carlyle with the inclusion of fighting forest fires and floods.

With national unemployment at over twenty-five percent in 1932 and with thirty percent of the employed working at part-time jobs, the country seemed ready for President Roosevelt's bill. In addition, another impetus for the establishment of such a program came in 1932 when the Society of American Foresters put forth and supported a program for conservation of national and state parks.

Initially, the US Congress wrote only one requirement into the Emergency Conservation Work Act of 1933. It was that all applicants must be US citizens. However, in implementing the act, three others were included. The applicants had to be unmarried men—white, black, Native American, Latino— between eighteen and twenty-six years old in sound physical health. Additionally, camps were to be established in all states and U. S. Territories.

The director of ECW was Robert Fechner. Four departments—Labor, Agriculture, Interior, and the Army—worked together to establish and operate the camps. Labor helped select the enrollees and provided their work standards, and the Army ran the camps. The US Forest Service from the Dept. of Agriculture and the National Park Service from the Dept. of the Interior were the technical advisors since most of the work was done on their land.

To prepare the young men for the extensive manual labor required of them, preliminary conditioning camps were established to evaluate the health and condition of the volunteers. Each young man was given good food, exercise, and lessons on physical hygiene and medical care.

Yet, it was soon discovered that physical training alone was not enough; many of the young men needed educational training. Even though provisions for education were not included in the original ECW Act, by 1934 such provisions were included and provided at each camp. In addition to basic skills such as reading and writing, vocational training in truck driving, mechanics, cooking, carpentry, masonry, forestry, and other related voca-

C.C.C. CO

CCC young men planted trees at one of the forestry camps.

tions was provided as camp personnel and the neighboring communities could provide. Further, college level classes were also available. However, all of these classes were conducted *after* the work day—in the late afternoons or evenings and anywhere one "could find a chair, blanket, or tree stump."

Much of the work done by the men of the CCC was in soil and forestry conservation. Volunteers helped with disease and insect control and with building more than 3,470 fire towers and 97,000 miles of fire roads. In addition they built drainage systems for more than 84,400,000 acres of farmland. They also planted more than three billion trees. In another vein, they built campgrounds with picnic shelters, swimming pools, fireplaces, and restrooms. Most of the state parks we have today owe their beginnings to the CCC.

The young men of the Civilian Conservation Corps did not become wealthy because of their efforts. For their work they were paid thirty dollars per month. Of this amount twenty-five dollars was automatically sent home for the families of the men.

The Civilian Conservation Camps had one of five designations: state park camps (SP); military park camps (MP); park camps (P); soil conservation service camps (SCS); and forestry camps (F). The camp located in Hancock County was Company 1484 at Camp P-52. It was located fifteen miles north of Bay St. Louis in the Kiln area. The mission of this camp was road-building, fire trail construction, and running telephone lines through Hancock Count and surrounding counties.

The Civilian Conservation Corps received great support from the general public, and for seven years or so was instrumental in providing jobs for thousands

of young men. Nonetheless with the bombing of Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, the need for the CCC came to an end. Most of the men enrolled in the program enlisted in the military or were drafted into military service. The CCC program had fulfilled its mission to put young American men to work and in doing so helped prepare them for many of the challenges they would face in war.

SOURCES:

Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). 28 Nov. 2011 <www.u-s-history.com/pages/h1586.html>.

Civilian Conservation Corps. 14 Dec. 2011 <www.ccclegacy.org>.

"Civilian Conservation Corps Materials in the National Park Service History Collection." *National Park Service History Collection RG4.* 2006. 15 Dec. 2011 <www.nps.gov/hfc/products/library/ccc.htm>.

Civilian Conservation Corps and the National Park Service, 1933—1942: An Administrative History. 4 April 2000. 14 Dec. 2011<www.nps.gov/history/ history/online_books/ cccc1.htm>.

Morris, Gene. "Re: CCC Records." E-mail to Katharine T. Ohman forwarded to Hancock County Historical Society.12 Mar. 2011

Mississippi Trivia and Interesting Stuff

- Mississippi College—first co-educational college in the United States to grant degrees to women (1826)
- First can of condensed milk produced at Liberty by Gail Borden (1828)
- First state to protect the property rights of married women (1839)
- First state to pass a law for a uniform system of public schools (1846)
- Birthplace of Eastern Star (1847) in Holmes County
- First state to establish a state bar association (1854)
- First established commercial college, St. Stanislaus, at Bay St. Louis (1855)
- First Decoration Day, later Memorial Day (May 30, 1868) at Columbus
- First state college for women, Columbus (1885)
- First state to establish a "Hall of Fame" (1903)
- 4-H Club founded by William Hall in Holmes County (1907)
- Birthplace of the PTA at Crystal Springs (1909)
- First state to have a planned system of junior colleges (1928)
- First automated ship built in the United States at Ingalls Shipbuilding (now Northrup-Grumman) for the Merchant Marines (1964)

Source: *Let's Talk Mississippi* Sesquicentennial Edition published by the Mississippi Economic Council, 1966.

NEW MEMBERS

Charles Marshall
Wavelend, MS

Martha Beech Fry
Poplarville, MS

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Saint Louis Bay Under Siege by Stealthy Otters

The invasion, while unknown to many, has been going on for several years. These North American River Otters are the bane of local pier crabbers. These carnivores can wreak havoc on unsuspecting crabbers by robbing their crab traps of bait and often the crabs.

Disguised as cute furry and entertaining mammals they are aggressive hunters. Their techniques include turning traps over and opening the bait chamber, reaching into or getting into the traps and feasting on the crabs and even penetrating a crab hotel. Unlike a crab trap, the trap hotel has no openings for crabs to enter and has a hatch that opens to put crabs in for safe keeping and feeding until they are ready to harvest.

River Otters can range in weight from 10 to 33 pounds and 2.5' to 5' in length with females about 1/3 the size of males. They catch prey with their mouths or use their thumbs and fore paws to capture and manipulate prey. The latter makes them skilled crab thieves.

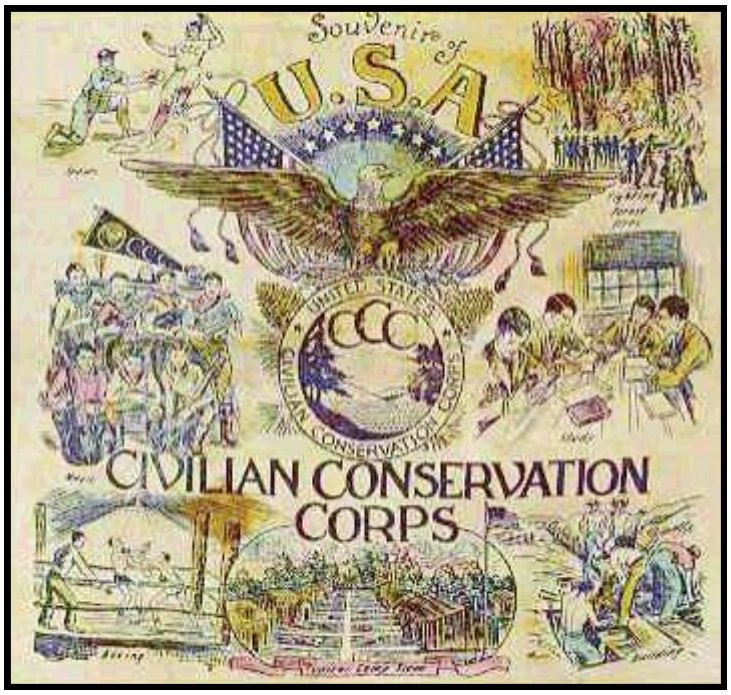
Based on my ongoing engagement with these accomplished thieves, the best defense is to zip tie the bait flap and zip tie the hatch to the crab hotel. While not completely effective it does deter these marauders.

Despite the Man VS Otter challenges, I still enjoy my pier crabbing and the excitement it brings with it in overcoming the "Otter Siege".

"*The minor events of history are valuable, though not always showy or picturesque.*" — *Mark Twain, 1891*

Chris Roth
President

Some of the young men at the Kiln CCC camp erected posts for telephones as these men in another state are doing.



Some CCC camp young men learned to fight forest fires.

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Please join us in recognition of Jim's many contributions to the Hancock County Historical Society and Museum. He will be missed as a Board Member, Historian, Writer and Researcher as well as a Great Friend and Mentor.

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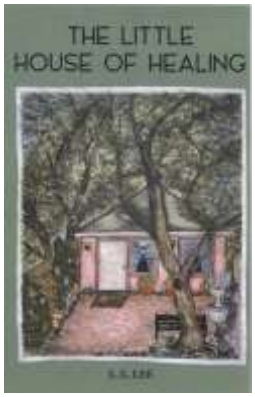

In *The Little House of Healing* by L.L. Lee, nine troubled individuals from a recently divorced woman to a courageous cancer battler, seek solace and a fresh start in the serene haven of Miss Lucy's peaceful Bay St. Louis cottage. This inspirational novel explores redemption and the resilience of the human spirit.

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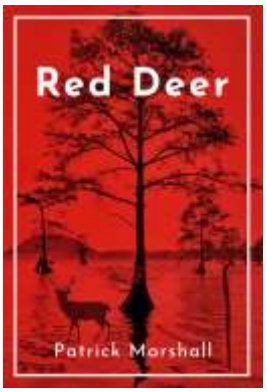

Red Deer is fantasy infused historical fiction. Jesse Walker, a 16 year old from present day Gulf Coast Mississippi, is transported back through time to the legendary birthplace of the Choctaw people, NanihWaiya village.

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